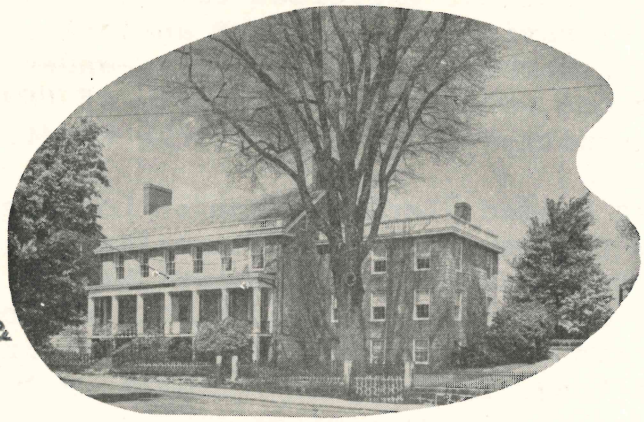
STACKS

New London County Historical Society

11 Blinman Street SHAW MANSION New London, Conn.



Quarterly Bulletin

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NEW LONDON, CONN.

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OUR HISTORY OF NEW LONDON

At long last, the History of New London, written for us by Dr. Robert O. Decker, may be at the publishers by the time this Bulletin has reached you. We have had the galley proofs for some time, and the Committee has been working on choosing illustrations, getting them reproduced and inserted into the appropriate section. Depending on the publisher, the book may be out in early winter, or early 1776.

BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL

Included in the list of accessions is a record book from Bartlett High School, 1852-59. It seems to be a running record of attendance and maybe grades. So far the editor has been unable to translate the meaning of the figures in the columns under the headings of the subjects studied. Also, just for interest, the writer or compiler, added a few notes on weather or items of outstanding interest: May 8th, 1854; the ground froze and there was ice 3/4 inch thick on the 7th. The next day was bright sun, but cool and had a fire. Nov. 7th, the Union Hotel burned in morning. On the same page an entry for Nov. 6th - the 1st fire in the stoves. (They must have just shivered up until that date). On the page for the last term of the year, 1857, it is noted that the term closes July 31. The graduating class consisted of 15 individuals - two entered Yale College, two the Naval Academy at Annapolis, three became clerks, one entered the profession of dentistry, three went into trades.

The curriculum entries are interesting. There seem to have been just four subjects most of the time, Arithmetic, Latin, Algebra, Greek, then with the subtraction of one, geometry would be added. Later geometry was removed, surveying substituted. Somewhere along the line, philosophy was added and one of the others was removed. For one week in 1856, grammar was listed,

for another week history was listed, they physical science was added. Bookkeeping and rhetoric came in once or twice. Maybe they weren't graded on all the subjects so they weren't listed, or maybe some of them were combined for when it gives the order of exercises for different terms, they seem to be more subjects, like navigation, grammar analysis, along with Caesar, Cicero, Anabasis, the last three probably coming under the broad term of Latin and Greek. It makes one wonder at the quality of the education, for "geometry" is spelled "geomitry" in several of the headings.

On one page is a list headed "Declamations". Looking at the list of speeche makes one wonder how the students could memorize all of them. Prentice declaimed "Webster against Haynes", and Lester "Webster's reply to Haynes", both of them filling up a good-sized pamphlet. J. Douglas orated "Hannibal to his army", Hempstead "Civilization of Africa". In all, there were forty. It would have made a long, long day.

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WE APOLOGIZE

The editor(s) seem to have fallen by the wayside. This Quarterly Bulletin is becoming a bi-annual publication, whether from laziness, oversight or encroaching age, we haven't decided. It might be from too many things to attend to, all at once, or it might be a little of all four. Whatever is the reason, we hope to be more diligent in the future. Speaking of age (and its ailments), note the following.

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A CURE FOR THE RHEUMATISM

Take a handful of prince of pine, a handful of horse-radish root, a handful prickly-ash bark, a handful of bittersweet root, a handful of wild cherry bark, and a pint of tar-water, and a gill of mustard see. Pub it into two quarts of Brandy. Take a small glass three times a day, before eating. Bathe the part affected in salt and rum by the fire.

Or shower with cold water, and drink brandy all the while.

from "The Family Physician". No date, probably ca. 1835.

The editor thinks this should follow: To cure a person's thirst for ardent spirits: Take bloodroot, pods of Indian tobacco dried and pulverized, of each a teaspoonful, which should be put into a pint of the spirit you like best; and whenever you thirst for liquor, drink a swallow of this, and you will soon be cured of that pernicious habit.

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BEAUTY AIDS

Depilatory of Rusma* and Quicklime: Take rusma and quicklime, and reduce them to a fine powder; and dissolve them for some time in water, where they

will form a soft paste, which is to be applied to hair on the body intended to be removed. In a few minutes, rub the part to which it has been applied, with a wet cloth, and the hair will be removed to the very roots. (Plus the extremities?)

*Rusma is a species of vitriol. from The Book of Health and Beauty, 1837.

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BED-HANGINGS

New hangings on two of the beds at the Shaw Mansion have added considerably to the appearance of the rooms. There were two problems, first to find a material suitable for each bed, secondly to find someone to make the bed-hangings. Both problems finally got solved, and now the Burbeck bed is dressed in natural linen color, with a crimson lining, the Perkins bed in the Sherman room has a patterned stripe in shades of gray-blue with orange lining. That bed has never been set up completely before. It has an arched canopy, so high that though the bed had been set up and usable in one of the rooms on the third floor, the ceilings were too low to allow the canopy to be put on. As a matter of fact, it is such a high arch, that one of the antique dealers who has visited the house called it a "great" bed, a term which they use sparingly.

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200 YEARS AGO

To Nath[l] Shaw, Esq. New York, May 2[d], 1775

Dear Sir,

I have only a few minutes time to write you, the post just going, this was the last post to Hartford carryed any mail from the Post office; W[m]. Goddard is now hear on his America & he intends setting off tomorrow for Hartford & so the Eastward, on his errand of establishing a Constitutional Post Riders office & as the other office declines sending mails, now is the time for him to carry the point in Execution - he has all the incouragement he desires from Phil[a] & the Western Colonies and I hope we shall now obtain this long desired Constitutional Post and think it best to --- --- with you. Goddard will come your way in his return.

We have voted all unanimous, and the assotiation Paper inclosed will be signed by most every man in this city & all seems now to go well to hand, in a state of Defence, as Cannon etc. will be carryed to Kingsbridge.

Our Custom house will be open tomorrow when Rogers will enter & shall immediately unload & dispatch him, no money to be collected nor can we sell any thing as little or no Business can be done, but hope all will be settled in few days. Our Committee have agreed that no Provisions be shipt to Boston, Hallifax, Newfoundland, Cannada or Georgia - but may to all other ports untill the Generall Congress orders other ways.

Our assotiation will be signed by all in this place, once the Councill will be asked (some of them have already signd) and they that refuse their names will be taken also.

This assotiation when fully signed will be sent to General Gage, as also to England.

The Jersey Councill I am told are hearty in their country's Cause & will write Gen[l] Gage & its thought ours will do the same.

The virginians are all up in arms, on acc't of one of their Maginzeens being seized by a man of War (some say by a --- of Lord Dunmore) & they will loose their blood but they will have it again.

I wrote you by W[m]. Harris - shall write you hopefully by Rogers. I am

Your H Serv[t]
PVandervoort

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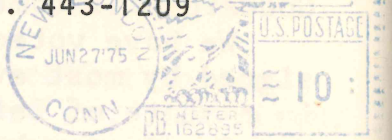
ACCESSIONS

Catalog of New London County Furniture - Gift of Lyman Allyn Museum
Centennial History of Susquehanna County, Pa. - Gift of Susquehanna County Historical Society
Morant's additions & corrections to Burke's General Armory - Bought by Soc.
Pen and ink drawing of Shaw Mansion - Gift of Savings Bank of New London
Once upon Quoketaug - The Biography of a Connecticut Farm Family, 1712-1960, by Rudy J. Favretti - Bought by Society
Homespun blue & white plaid wool blanket, 1839 - Gift of Mrs. C. W. Root, Sunderland, Mass.
Grandmother's wedding dress, great-grandmother's gauze scarf (to be worn over a poke bonnet), Barber's Conn. Historical Collections - Gift of Mrs. Millicent Comstock
Set of 20 colored prints of Naval Actions in the American Revolution - Gift of Navy Department
Ms. genealogy of Lam family - Gift of Miss Ruth Oviatt - Arlington, Va.
History of First Congregational Church, Stonington - Bought by Society
Ms. record book of Dr. Edwin R. Warren, minister of Second Baptist Church, N.L. (contains records of marriages & medical treatment of many of his patients and the outcome) - Bought by Society
New England Gazeteer, 1830 and
39 old postcards - Gift of Mrs. C. L. Canfield, Old Greenwich, Conn.
Ms. account book of Samuel Whipple, Ledyard, 1801-28 - Gift of anonymous donor
Ms. record of Bartlett High School, attendance and subjects - Gift of anonymous donor
Scenes in New London County, Pub. in 9 parts, 1892 - Left at front door. We will know her name when she comes back.



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Mrs. Elizabeth Knox - Curator

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